



Alzheimer's State Plan Commission
Cultural Competency Task Force

Thursday, September 4
4:00-5:00pm
Nursing Placement, Inc.
334 East Avenue #2
Pawtucket, RI

Attendees:

Maria Barros (co-chair)
Jasmin Rimcon (co-chair)
Linda Avant-Deishinni
Tiffany Eduard
Marea Tumber

Draft Minutes

The group approved the minutes. There is a spelling error that is now corrected (Munir not Maneer).

The group discussed getting more people involved with the group. We need leaders, and they aren't coming to the meetings. How to connect with them?

Jasmin read the ASP online and realized that CC crosses over all groups, i.e. workforce, caregiver and support groups.

Perhaps one strategy is to set a goal of addressing one community per week. We need to identify barriers, but we need people in each community to guide us. LGBT group has done a great job of this.

Maria asked when the report for the ASP is due. Marea suggested that it would be useful to have a product, i.e a workplan, in place when the new administration transitions in. It's better to have a working document than just ideas; it gives people action items to carry the work forward.

The group discussed using a survey to assess the needs of the different communities. Survey monkey is efficient and easy, but there will be issues with translation. Also, many people do not have access to computers. In person might

solicit more responses, because people like to talk to a real person, and will tend to share more that way.

Many people in the community don't want to participate in surveys because they feel that nothing will be done with the responses- they are fatigued that the same issues are discussed and never resolved.

The group discussed places where different ethnic groups gather: churches, senior centers, community centers. Could AARP help? NHP has a SE Asian group that they do chronic disease management with.

Also, nursing placement serves over 1000 people from varying cultures, so we could start there. It would be a way of piloting the translations, too, to see if people understand what we are asking. Clients at NP could be surveyed either in person or over the phone.

Jasmin suggested setting a goal of piloting the survey on one group by the next meeting. The survey needs to be written for low-literacy levels.

Survey question ideas:

1. What group do you identify with?
 - a. Drop down menu of choices + other category
2. What language do you speak?
3. Who do you live with?
 - a. Self
 - b. Spouse/partner
 - c. Family
 - d. other
4. What town do you live in?
5. How old are you?
 - a. Drop down of age categories, 60-65, 66-70, etc.
6. What is your primary means of transportation?
 - a. Own car
 - b. Bus
 - c. Walk
 - d. Taxi
 - e. Family/friend drives me
7. Do you have physical limitations or disabilities?

8. Are you on SSI/disability?
9. What kind of housing do you live in?
 - a. Single family
 - b. Multi-family
 - c. Apartment
 - d. Assisted living
 - e. Nursing home
10. Do you work?
 - a. How many hours per week?
11. Do you have health insurance?
12. Do you have a primary care doctor?
 - a. How often do you visit him/her?
13. Do you have trouble communicating when:
 - a. You call your doctor's office to make the appointment?
 - b. Communicating with the doctor during the exam?
 - i. Does your doctor explain things to you in a way that you understand?
 - c. The pharmacist explains your medications to you?
 - d. Other
14. If you need help with a language barrier, is there someone who helps you? Is this help:
 - a. A community agency?
 - b. A paid translator?
 - c. Family member
 - d. Other
15. Are you aware of resources in your community? For example, if you need help with heating your home in the winter, or if you needed medical supplies like a wheelchair, do you know where to get help?
16. Do you have access to a computer?
17. How would you generally describe yourself:
 - a. Happy
 - b. Sad
 - c. Overwhelmed
 - d. Lonely
18. Name and contact information (optional): _____

The group discussed the challenges that undocumented people, or those here less than five years, face. They have a right to health care, but that's it. Many have no income at all, and rely completely on family, churches, soup kitchens and community members, to survive.

Maria would like to develop a resource guide in a table format, with a column for each language. Maybe some local students could help with translation? The guides could be distributed via the web, radio, POINT, etc.

Tiffany distributed the mini-mental that is used in RI. The limitations of this test need to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Next meeting: October 2nd, 4:00-5:00pm at Nursing Placement, 334 East Avenue #2 Pawtucket, RI.